



2681

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Du Toit et al. Examiner: Unknown
Serial No.: 09/979586 Group Art Unit: 2681
Filed: February 20, 2003 Docket: 08436.0088USWO
Title: VARIABLE PHASE SHIFTER

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: , Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 29, 2003.

By: Kristin Fahey
Name: Kristin Fahey

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2600

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Other: Preliminary Amendment
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Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By: Brian H. Batzli
Name: Brian H. Batzli
Reg. No.: 32,960
BHBatzli/kaf



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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Box PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Technology Center 2600

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application filed herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1- 72 without disclaimer or prejudice. Please add new claims 73 - 103.

73. A variable phase shifter comprising first and second coupled signal conductors providing a transmission path through the phase shifter, the signal conductors being relatively movable to vary the physical length of the transmission path, wherein at least one of the signal conductors has a coupling surface which faces the other signal conductor and which is provided with an oxide coating.